CO-OPERATIVE WORK FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN

In the operation of a hospital for crippled children such as our Chicago Unit there are many agencies who co-operate with us as we try to co-operate with them.

From time to time conditions develop among children that are not always the work intended for orthopedic surgeons. The Chicago Unit is fortunate in being located in one of the world's largest medical centers, because the services of the best men in the medical profession in the City of Chicago are always available to us for any service required and without compensation. Invariably these men leave important duties to extend their help in emergency cases, and then we have the fine co-operation of the Visiting Nurses Association, who do an excellent job of follow up work after the children leave the hospital.

Sometimes we wonder if the masses of our citizenry know how much is being done for handicapped children and how many agencies there are contributing to the welfare of crippled children in a great city like Chicago.

A visit to any one of the four schools for crippled children in Chicago would be a revelation to the average citizen. The Spalding School the largest of these four schools for crippled children is operated by the Board of Education who by reason of disease, accident or congenital deformity cannot attend a regular school with safety and profit, during the period of their physical rehabilitation, simultaneous mental development and social adjustment.

Pupils eligible for school are admitted or transferred from it only on the written recommendation of some recognized physician or surgeon.

The physical and health care given to these pupils form the core of the school service rendered to them. This care includes physiotherapy and nursing service and also supervised rest, recreation, diet and transportation. This care is fostered in co-operation with physicians, surgeons, nursing organizations, hospitals, clinics, dispensaries, and social service agencies.

The transportation of the children in the Spalding Schools requires nineteen busses. After the children arrive at the school there are elevators, specially constructed ramps, wheel chairs and other accommodations suited to the particular requirement of the individual child. Seventeen people are employed in a special department, whose sole function is to look after the physical care of the children. In this department there are booths for physiotherapy treatment, cardiac examinations and surgical dressings. Gymnasium for exercising and games and a hydrotherapy tank 6 x 12″ for treatment of infantile cases, numerous showers, foot tubs and other facilities for specific uses.

Accurate individual files containing the medical and social history records for all cases are carefully maintained. There is another department with special treatment rooms for spastics. A large swimming pool used for under-water treatment during the morning and recreational swimming in the afternoon. This department also has an automatic solarium for furnishing ultra violet ray treatments where the children are placed upon a

moveable sidewalk arrangement and are passed through the sun ray treatment under the careful supervision of experts. Two very large rooms are used for occupational therapy where the children are taught to make a large variety of things from weaving fabrics to the use of machinery and tools in the manufacture of articles made from wood. This department is extremely interesting and affords a fine opportunity for the observer to witness the skill with which some of the children work.

Rest rooms are an important adjunct in the care of the crippled child. Spalding School has two large rest porches where supervised rest periods are required throughout the day for the older children and then there are other rest rooms for the nursery school, kindegarden and special spastic division.

Children are divided into various groups according to their ailment, and whether at play or in the class room the child is under the care of a highly specialized supervisor.

Upon arriving at the school and at recess time milk or cocoa and crackers are available for each child and at noon time a warm meal prepared by a highly trained dietitian. This work is carried on to the extent of preparing special diets upon doctors orders for specific cases, and cod liver oil is available for all for whom it is prescribed.

There are approximately seven hundred pupils in the Spalding School who attend school during the regular school hours of the day from 9:00 to 2:00 and participate in the regular Chicago Public School course, academic range from nursery school through high school. There is a division for blind and sight saving classes, with another division for deaf and hard of hearing.

A splendidly equipped brace shop takes care of brace repairs and a work shop for handicapped young women who receive vocational training to fit them for employment in many classes of work.

Numerous other facilities are provided and day after day through the school year this work goes on under the guidance of a large group of teachers, physiotherapists and attendants, all required to be experts in their particular line of endeavor, supervised by a school principal and her corp of assistants, who have qualified by their training in this highly specialized work.

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MISS THURLEY GRIFFIN, R.N., Ass't Superintendent

SPRING 1938

Chicago Unit Tattler

Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children

2211 North Oak Park Avenue - - - IN CHICAGO

TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY

In March, 1926, the first patients were accepted in the Chicago Unit and so March, 1938 was our twelfth Anniversary. During all of those twelve years we have never had an empty bed and there has been a continual waiting list of from 50 to 100 applications.

When we realize the value of this great work and appreciate that sixty beds are always full, and an additional 150 to 200 patients are coming to the Hospital each month for treatment and that what is being done in Chicago by the Shrine for the Crippled Child is being repeated in 14 other Shrine Hospitals across the country, we can well be proud that we are members of an order that is aiding humanity in a very substantial way for the Chicago Unit is the only 100% charity hospital for crippled children in the State of Illinois that is not supported by public taxes. The most skilled service and the finest of equipment is provided for those who are unable to pay without regard to race, creed or color.

ADOLPH G. VOSS

The Board of Governors of the Chicago Unit join with sorrow the countless numbers of friends in the sudden passing of one of its members, Illustrious Noble, Adolph G. Voss, Potentate of Medinah Temple, a man of high ideals and an interested helpful worker in the purposes of the Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children.

MAY FIRST—CHILD HEALTH DAY

By authorization of Congress in 1928 May 1st each year has been set apart as Child Health Day, and Child Health Day activities are sponsored by the United States Children's Bureau, to the end that in each community wherever there are Child Welfare agencies throughout the United States suitable observations are made on this day. The Shriners' Hospitals are making this a special day.

The Chicago Unit will have open house. All Shriners and their families as well as their friends are invited to visit us and help in the celebration.

SOCIAL SERVICE

For more than ten years a group of ladies from that splendid organization the "Daughters of the Nile" have carried on one of the most excellent pieces of work that has been done in connection with our hospital, for which we will never be able to express our full appreciation. So frequently we think in terms of the child only and give no thought to the anxious aching hearts of mothers and fathers who live miles from the hospital and are too poor to make a trip to Chicago. For many of our children come from North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and some from more distant points. These good ladies visit the hospital every week in the year and they become the correspondent between the child and its parents, and thus the parents are kept closely informed of every condition, what the doctor says about the case and all those intimate details in answer to innumerable questions. It is a fine work, well done.

HAPPINESS IN A SHRINERS' HOSPITAL

When a child goes to a hospital for a stay of several months we sympathize with him, feeling that he is to be shut away from activities and interests of his schoolmates and family. There is a general feeling that his life is more or less suspended and will not begin again until he is once more at home. This may be true of the poor little rich boy. But it is quite different for the crippled child who is entering a Shriners' Hospital.

Many of these children have never had the normal companionship of other children—may never have attended school. The inability to walk or play and, more than anything else, the lack of knowing such things are possible, have made him a frightened or lonely child. For certainly the child who spends his life sitting in a chair is missing the important experiences of childhood.

In the Shriners' Hospitals, life is made as nearly normal as possible. One's daily routine is more that of a child living in any well-regulated home. To get up in the morning, have breakfast with thirty others and hustle to school, where usual school courses are taught, together with weaving, embroidery, bead work, leather work, metal and woodwork. Returning from the classroom, there is a rush for the outdoors. Some one may be called away to the x-ray room, another child will be due in the Physiotherapy department for his exercises and perhaps dressing are due for others, yet these are mere interruptions. Just a few minutes and they are back at their real business of playing.

Dinner time—a fine wholesome meal —and school again. General assembly in the schoolroom for Current Events, Rhythm-band practice and Music appreciation classes. Before coming "home" they may stop at the school library and get a book to read.

After school all kiddies to bed for a one hour rest period and the balance of the day is free.

All the while the wonder work goes on. The mishapened limbs are gradually taking normal form and before we scarcely realize it modern science has brought the child and its parents from the despair of a darkened future to the happiness of a hopeful existence.

Saturday is party day—our good friends of the various ladies organizations give entertainments with clowns, Punch and Judy shows, community singing, ice cream and cake. Then we have playlets by the children themselves, musical shows from bands and orchestras, talking movies, etc. The children who can walk take the others in wheel chairs, the nurses move those in beds, thus all arrive at the entertainment.

Then Sunday the Big Day! Mother and Dad come to visit their kiddies and hear the story of the week's happenings. It is worth a day's journey to see the children preparing for visiting hours. The boys put on neckties and the girls hair ribbons, they comb and they brush and every mirror in the wards are busy.

From such a life within the hospital a child receives far more than medical care. Companionship with children of their own kind creates in the handicapped child a new assurance and changes in personality are frequent and startling. They seem to feel no limitation while in the hospital and the improvement in the mental attitude is permanent.

Three of our boys were playing baseball one day, two in wheelchairs and one with a leg plaster walking on crutches. One of the boys in a chair batted the ball and then shouted, "Now wait, I'm going to make a home run." The other waited while he solemnly went around the diamond in his wheel chair. For boys with such a training and experience in adjusting to a situation there will never be anything which can't be managed somehow. And that is probably the greatest lesson we can teach them.

Have you ever visited this little institution? You can do so any Sunday between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.

REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

We have special legal forms that you can use when making up your will. Have your attorney ask us for a copy of these forms.

COME AND SEE THE KIDDIES

Six members of Medinah Temple are on duty every Sunday from two to four o'clock. They will guide you through our building and explain each deparment fully. It is well worth your time to know about this great work and meet the kiddies.

FAMILY NIGHT AT MEDINAH SET FOR MAY 13th

It was necessary to postpone the Family Night entertainment at Medinah Temple, which had been planned by Illustrious Noble, Adolph G. Voss, because of his sudden passing away. Family night at Medinah Temple is the night on which Medinah Temple gives an entertainment for the benefit of our hospital and charges as an admission a can of something that can be used in our commissary department, such as vegetables, meats, pork and beans, breakfast foods and a large variety of other things that the Medinah family bring as their admission fee and donate it to the hospital. A beautiful family party had been planned for this year, and it was a matter of sincere regret that circumstances prevented carrying through the plan.

Last year Illustrious Noble Case L. Griffis planned a similar party for one of those March evenings when we had the worst snow storm of the season. Notwithstanding this handicap, however, the entertainment was patronized by a very large number and the hospital received a truck load of goodies for the children.

Illustrious Noble Shepherd has made complete new plans for a bigger and better family night for Friday, May 13. Read the Medinah Notice for full details.

SHRINE LUNCH CLUB

Pennies collected every week at the Shrine Lunch Club are averaging $12.00 to $15.00 per week and only pennies are accepted.

MEMORIAL DONATION AS A MEMORIAL BOUQUET

The Chicago Unit, Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children have established a Memorial Fund the purpose of which is to enable friends of the hospital to make a Memorial Donation to this fund in memory of a deceased friend. Any donation mailed to the hospital will be added to this fund for the benefit of the work of rehabilitating a crippled child and a Memorial Card is immediately sent to the family of the deceased, which reads as follows:

Chicago Unit

Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled Children gratefully acknowledge a donation to its Memorial Fund in memory of

_____

from

_____

to assist in our rehabilitation work for a crippled child.

Be sure to give us the name of the deceased, name and address of the family of the deceased and your name as donor.

REPEATER

A friend of the crippled children sent us a fine donation of $50.00 cash. We wrote thanking him profusely for remembering us. His reply was "I took it out of my income tax —I would have to pay it out anyway."